

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): An apparatus to align the mouth of a sample container with a sample needle of a sample device, said apparatus comprising:

a sleeve guide comprising a cylinder having a cylinder wall, a first end, a second end, and an inside diameter and a top;

a guidance ring comprising an annulus having an annulus wall, an inside diameter and an outside diameter, said inside diameter of said guidance ring dimensioned to securely hold said mouth of said sample container and said outside diameter of said guidance ring dimensioned to slidably fit inside said sleeve guide; and at least two diametrically opposed tabs attached to said outside diameter of said guidance ring said tabs comprising bolts threaded into holes in said outside diameter of said annulus wall of said guidance ring; and

alignment means for aligning said guidance ring in said sleeve guide, said alignment means including at least two diametrically opposed slots cut in said cylinder wall of said sleeve guide, said slots starting at said first end of said sleeve guide and ending at said second end of said sleeve guide, said slots slidably accepting said tabs of said guidance ring so that said guidance ring may slide inside said sleeve guide from said first end of said sleeve guide to said second end of said sleeve guide to move said sample container into contact with said sample needle.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

a mounting means on said top of said sleeve guide whereby said sleeve guide may be attached to said sample device and said sample ~~needles extend~~ needle extends into said sleeve guide.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An apparatus to align a sample container mouth with a sample needle of a sample device, said apparatus comprising:

a sleeve having a first end, a second end, ~~and~~ an axis and at least one slot extending from said first end of said sleeve substantially to said second end of said sleeve;

needle attachment means capable of attaching to said first end of said sleeve and fixably positioning said sample needle of said sample device to extend within said sleeve;

movable guidance means, having at least one tab attached to the outside of said guidance means, said guidance means being slidably attached within said sleeve with said tab fitting slidably within said slot, said guidance means being capable of securely accepting said sample container mouth when positioned at said second end of said sleeve, and capable of then being slidably moved towards said first end of said sleeve, thereby guiding said sample container mouth towards said sample needle along said axis of said sleeve,

whereby said sample needle pierces a septum on said sample container mouth in a substantially linear fashion.